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TH1934

April 24, 2001

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to The Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.



Brit Baker

ATTN: PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Patent Application Entitled "**IN SITU THERMAL PROCESSING OF A HYDROCARBON CONTAINING FORMATION USING A NATURAL DISTRIBUTED COMBUSTOR**" -- Vinegar, et al.

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a disclosure including a title page, a 274 page specification, 772 pages of claims (Claims 1-5395), and a one page abstract. In addition, we have also included 182 formal drawings on 163 sheets. The disclosure and drawings constitute the application of Harold J. Vinegar, Scott L. Wellington, Eric de Rouffignac, John M. Karanikas, Ilya E. Berchenko, George L. Stegemeier, Kevin A. Maher, Etuan Zhang, Gordon T. Shahin, James L. Menotti, John M. Coles, Thomas D. Fowler, Charlie R. Keedy, Ajay M. Madgavkar, Martijn van Hardeveld, Robert C. Ryan, Lanny Schoeling and Fred G. Carl for the above-entitled invention.

Commissioner for Patents
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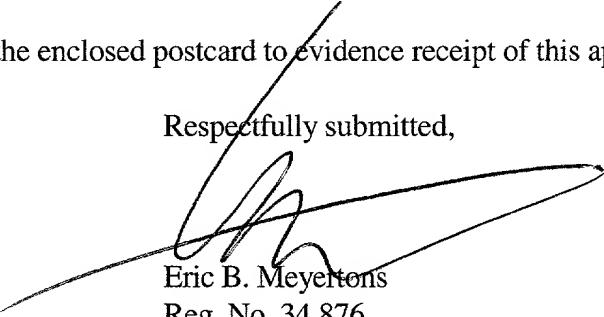
Please note that this application is filed without an inventor Declaration and filing fees. Applicant requests the Patent and Trademark Office to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, the Applicant requests that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED be sent to the undersigned Applicant representative.

Please address all correspondence in connection with this application to:

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Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures